

E1-1853

11 January 2006

Salcha Dog Mushers Association
5845 Old Valdez Trail
Salcha, Alaska 99714

Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No. 64358
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Attention: David Navecky
Environmental Filing

My name is Arleigh Reynolds and I am the President of the Salcha Dog Mushers Association, a non-profit organization whose members are mainly residents of the community of Salcha and participate in sleddog sports. We have approximately 55 members and have for the past 30 years maintained a network of dog mushing trails that receive multi-purpose use by residents and visitors alike throughout the winter and summer months. Our 30+ mile trail system is on the North Star Borough's system of dedicated and platted trails. In addition we have been recognized by the State of Alaska Department of Parks as an organized entity and have received state and federal funds to maintain and improve our trail system. We also have a lease agreement with Eielson Air Force Base that permits our use of base lands on the west side of Piledriver Slough for a portion of our trail system.

It has come to the attention of members of our organization that your proposed railroad extension project could have potentially significant impacts to the integrity of our trail system as well as to our access to the trails. Two of your proposed routes, N-2 and N-3 would both bisect portions of the trail as well as eliminate access to large portions of the trail. The N-1 route would not impact our trails and we would support use of this alignment for the railroad extension.

As you proceed in your planning process for the proposed railway extension we would strongly urge you consider our concerns with respect to the impacts the railway could have on our trail system. We are more than willing to work with you in trying to address and mitigate the impacts that we would anticipate could occur to our trail system. Please contact me if you would like to discuss these issues.

Respectfully,

Dr. Arleigh Reynolds
490-4797